

Message Text

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ORIGIN SP-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 L-01

PM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /039 R

DRAFTED BY S/P:RBARTHOLOMEW:AWDEPORTE

APPROVED BY S/P:WLORD

EUR/WE:WMARSH

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R 260019Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 067978

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR,FR

SUBJECT: US-FRENCH PLANNING TALKS

REF: PARIS 6537, 6562

1. PLEASE INFORM CAP THAT LORD AGREES TO PROPOSAL (PARIS 6562) TO BEGIN PLANNING TALKS AT 3 P.M. THURSDAY APRIL 17 AND CONTINUE THROUGH MORNING AND AFTERNOON OF APRIL 18. S/P GROUP PLEASED TO ACCEPT THURSDAY DINNER INVITATION IF OFFERED. WE DO NOT BELIEVE SATURDAY TALKS ARE NECESSARY.

2. AFTER REVIEWING POSSIBLE AGENDA TOPICS WE HAVE REACHED THESE CONCLUSIONS:

-- WE AGREE WITH YOU THAT ENERGY WOULD NOT BE A USEFUL TOPIC BECAUSE US AND FRANCE ARE NOW SO CLOSELY ENGAGED WITH THE PROBLEM OPERATIONALLY.

-- AGENDA SHOULD INCLUDE 1) EUROPEAN DEFENSE AND 2) EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION AND TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS AS SUGGESTED BY FRENCH.

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-- FOR THE THIRD SESSION WE BELIEVE THAT DISCUSSION OF SOUTHERN FLANK WOULD BE MOST USEFUL AT THIS TIME IN LIGHT OF SERIOUS PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE ALLIANCE ALONG THE MEDITERRANEAN.

3. WOULD YOU PLEASE CONVEY TO THE FRENCH OUR ACCEPTANCE OF TWO OF THE TOPICS THEY HAVE SUGGESTED AND OUR PROPOSAL TO TAKE UP THE SOUTHERN FLANK, RATHER THAN ENERGY, FOR THE REASONS STATED ABOVE. ALSO REITERATE TO THEM THAT WE DO NOT ENVISAGE SET PAPERS BUT A BROAD-RANGING DISCUSSION OF EACH TOPIC, ALLOWING TIME (PERHAPS AN HOUR AT THE END) FOR DISCUSSION OF WHATEVER ELSE EITHER SIDE CARES TO RAISE.

4. WE WILL INFORM ERRERA HERE OF OUR RESPONSE.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING EMBASSY'S FURTHER VIEWS ON WHAT WE MIGHT USEFULLY SAY ON THE AGENDA POINTS AND WHAT THE FRENCH CAN BE EXPECTED TO SAY.

6. S/P GROUP AT PLANNING TALKS WILL INCLUDE LORD AND BARTHOLOMEW, WHO WILL ALSO BE AT APAG MEETING, AND DEPORTE. (THESE ARE THREE OF FOUR FOR WHOM RESERVATIONS ALREADY MADE AT MAYFAIR FOR NIGHTS APRIL 17-19; PLEASE ALSO MAKE RESERVATION FOR DEPORTE AT MAYFAIR FOR NIGHTS APRIL 14-16.) DOES EMBASSY THINK FRENCH SIDE LIKELY TO BE CONFINED TO CAP MEMBERS OR MIGHT OTHERS IN QUAI BE INCLUDED? IF LATTER, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY JAMES LOWENSTEIN MIGHT JOIN S/P PARTICIPANTS.

7. LORD AND BARTHOLOMEW LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR RUSH AT 3:30 P.M. ON APRIL 14, AND WITH OTHERS IN EMBASSY. THEY DO NOT EXPECT TO SEE FRENCH OFFICIALS EXCEPT AT APAG MEETING AND PLANNING TALKS. KISSINGER

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